

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

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In the Matter of: )  
 )  
ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASK FORCE ) Administrative Order  
ON ISSUING SEARCH WARRANTS ) No. 2021 - 34  
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The Judicial Branch’s Strategic Agenda, *Justice for the Future: Planning for Excellence*, Goal 5, is Promoting Public Trust and Confidence. The use of no-knock or unannounced search warrants and nighttime warrants can create a dangerous situation for both law enforcement and citizens. In Arizona, few such warrants are issued, but when even one situation goes badly, it can seriously impact the public’s trust in the justice system. The examination of when a judge should authorize such a warrant and what safeguards should be in place before such a warrant is issued is timely. It is also appropriate for the judiciary to examine the procedures followed by judicial officers for issuing these warrants, the training needed, and whether any changes to existing statutes and rules are warranted.

Therefore, pursuant to Article VI, section 3 of the Arizona Constitution,

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. ESTABLISHMENT: The Task Force on Issuing Search Warrants is established.
2. PURPOSE: The Task Force shall review the process for issuing no-knock and nighttime search warrants in Arizona. The Task Force shall make recommendations to ensure that there are adequate safeguards in the issuance of these warrants. The Task Force’s recommendations may propose amendments to Arizona court rules and statutes concerning these warrants, including amendments that provide new or modified criteria or standards for the issuance of no-knock or nighttime warrants. The Task Force’s recommendations shall also address the training of judicial officers to ensure adequate training is provided.

The Task Force shall make its recommendations to the Arizona Judicial Council no later than October 21, 2021.

3. MEMBERSHIP: The individuals listed in Appendix A are appointed as members of the Task Force for a term beginning on April 2, 2021 and ending November 1, 2021. The Chief Justice may appoint additional members as may be necessary.

4. MEETINGS: Task Force meetings shall be scheduled at the discretion of the Chair. All meetings shall comply with the Arizona Code of Judicial Administration § 1-202: Public Meetings.
5. STAFF: The Administrative Office of the Courts shall provide staff for the Task Force and shall assist the Task Force in developing recommendations and preparing any necessary reports and filings.

Dated this 10th day of March, 2021.

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ROBERT BRUTINEL  
Chief Justice

**Appendix A**  
**Task Force on Issuing Search Warrants**  
**Membership List**

*Chair:*

Hon. Clint Bolick  
Justice

Armando Nava  
Attorney at Law

*Members:*

Hon. Karl Eppich  
Court of Appeals, Division Two

Kevin Robinson  
Arizona State University, Professor of  
Criminology  
Assistant Chief of Police (ret.), Phoenix  
Police Department

Hon. Suzanne Cohen  
Superior Court of Arizona in Maricopa  
County

Major George Manera  
Arizona Department of Public Safety

Hon. Melissa Zabor  
Superior Court of Arizona in Maricopa  
County

Jerry Landau  
Administrative Office of the Courts

Hon. Christopher Browning  
Superior Court of Arizona in Pima County

Anita Escobedo  
Superior Court of Arizona in Gila County

Hon. Jill Davis  
Lake Havasu Justice Court

Primitivo Romero  
Superior Court of Arizona in Santa Cruz  
County

Kent Volkmer  
Pinal County Attorney

Abril Ruiz Ortega  
Avondale City Court

Benjamin Taylor  
Attorney at Law

Darrell Hill  
Attorney at Law  
American Civil Liberties Union

Christina Cabanillas  
Assistant United States Attorney

Ken Cost  
Chief of Police  
Mesa Police Department

Professor Sylvia Lett  
University of Arizona, School of Law